

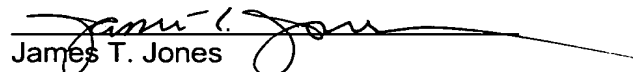
are classified in exactly the same class and subclass, class 424, subclass 472. A search for any one of these six Groups represents a search for the other five Groups as well since the Examiner must search the exact same classification for each group. MPEP 803 states that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. Thus if the Examiner is searching the invention of Group II which Applicants have elected, the Examiner will be searching the same classification that is pertinent to Groups I, III, V, VI and VII as well. It is respectfully submitted, per MPEP 803, that it would not be a serious burden on the Examiner to consolidate at least some of the aforementioned Restriction Groups, as opposed to placing the burden and expense of filing and prosecuting six different applications on Applicants, all of which applications can be searched together.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement. Even if the Examiner chooses not to withdraw the requirement *in toto*, it is requested that at least some of the groups which can be searched together be consolidated. Applicants will defer amending the claims pending the Examiner's response.

Action on the merits, especially a Notice of Allowance, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: MARCH 29, 2002

  
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